

SENATE BILL 3020
By Bryson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 6, Part 1, relative to pre-kindergarten
education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section.

§ 49-6-1 ____.

The department of education shall compile a registry of non-profit and for-profit child care providers located within the state that are willing and capable of providing pre-kindergarten education to one (1) or more children. Any local education agency receiving approval and funding for a pre-kindergarten program pursuant to §§ 49-6-103—49-6-110 shall make such registry available to parents and guardians of at-risk children eligible to participate in its pre-kindergarten program. A parent or guardian of an at-risk child who is eligible for pre-kindergarten education provided by the local education agency may choose to enroll such child in a program provided by the local education agency, a program provided by the local education agency through a collaborative agreement with a non-school system entity or in any program offered by a provider on the registry maintained by the department of education. A parent or guardian of an eligible at-risk child may choose to enroll the child in a program of a provider listed on the registry that is not located within the boundaries of the local education agency in which the child is eligible to attend school. A provider enrolling an eligible at-risk child shall be paid the amount that constitutes the total per child funding provided under §§ 49-6-103—49-6-110 through state funds to the local education

agency in which the child is eligible to attend school and local matching funds provided by such local education agency. For the purposes of this section, local matching funds shall not include in-kind matches, private funds, or funds received by the local education agency through grants or other sources that restrict the use of such funds to specific programs. Any charge by the provider for tuition or fees in excess of such per child funding, or for fees for childcare which is provided outside the times of the instructional day, shall be responsibility of the child's parent or guardian. The commissioner of education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this section. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.